

Subject: Papal Academy of
Fine Arts medal

Maier, Kenneth
[Rochester, NY]



147 Cottage Street
Rochester, New York,
29th, March, 1933.

Hamerano-F

(Was Hamerano a famous maker of medals.?)

Secretary
A. N. S.
New York City.

Dear Sir :

Will you have the goodness to give me some information regarding an old bronze medal I have, of which I am giving you a sketch.

I am particularly interested to learn if this Carolo Fontana, was a famous painter of the " Madona " and if this medal was given to him for his work in this connection.?

If you have any literature regarding these old medals that you could allow me I would greatly appreciate them.

Were there other medals like the above, of the same design,... or different, given to other famous artists, such as Rembrandt, and Raphael.

Are these medals considered of any rarity.?

Thanking you very kindly, and awaiting your reply with sincere interest.

Very truly yours,

Kenneth Maher

March 31, 1933.

Mr. Kenneth Maher
147 Cottage Street
Rochester, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

The name of Hamerani belongs to a celebrated family of coin and medal engravers who were employed for nearly two centuries at the Papal Mint in Rome.

Your medal is one issued by the Papal Academy of Fine Arts in Rome to proficient pupils. The obverse shows St. Luke, the Evangelist, painting a portrait of the Madonna.

The name Carlo or Carolo Fontana does not appear in any dictionary of well known artists; he was simply a good pupil at the Academy. His later works were not of much consequence, and the medal was given him for his academy work. The medals of this design are quite plentiful and are little collected.

These medals were only given to the pupils of the Papal Art School and that excludes of course Rembrandt, Raphael and all others who studied elsewhere.

We have no literature on the subject outside of a dictionary of names in twelve volumes.

Very truly yours,

RR:JG

Assistant Curator